MINISTRY OF HEALTH

H

ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.
FOR THE YEAR 1966

Town Hall,
Royton,
Lancs.

ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council, 1966-1967

Councillor J.Ogden.J.P.

Health Committee 1966-67

Councillor G.L.Buckley J.P. — Chairman
Councillor F.Butler — Vice-Chairman

Councillor J.Ogden J.P.
" V.Lockwood
" G.A.Sidgwick
" W.C.Nixon
" H.Stephenson

Medical Officer of Health

Gilbert R.Brackenridge M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Town Hall, Royton.

Telephone No. MAIn (Oldham) 5271

Deputy Medical Officer of Health
Joan M.Curtis, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

C.Buckley, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

Neil H.Morton, M.A.P.H.I.,
M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Meat Inspectors.

John Salt, M.A.M.I., M.Inst.M.,A.R.S.H.

John B.Smith, M.A.M.I., M.Inst.M.,A.R.S.H.

Clerk/Typist

Mrs.B.Wilson - resigned 15th May 1966.
Mrs.J.Billington - commenced 16th May 1966.

Town Hall,
ROYTON.

October 1967.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Royton Urban District Council.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Paragraph 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, I submit this, my Annual Report on the Public Health and allied services in the District for the year ended 31st December 1966. The general format of the report is as in recent years but with certain amendments of text and tabular material.

The total population of the District continues to increase and the mid-1966 estimate of 16,900 is 700 more than the mid-1965 estimate. It is 2,400 (14%) higher than at the 1961 Census. With 370 live births, the Crude Birth Rate is now 21.9 per 1,000 population, giving an adjusted rate of 22.8 to compare with a national rate of 17.7. The local rate has risen sharply in the last decade, presumably the result of net immigration of young married families into the district. The total of 238 deaths gives a Crude Death rate of 14.0, and an adjusted rate of 15.4 to compare with a national rate of 11.7. Although the rate is considerably above national average, there is no special significance in this, and it will be noted that 163 (69%) are of those over 65 years of age, including 96 (40% of the total) over 75 years of age. There has been no significant variation in Infant Mortality rates; as I indicated in my last year's report when commenting on the (then) increased stillbirth rate, one must exercise great caution in interpreting fluctuations from year to year in a comparatively small total population.

The total notifications of Infectious Diseases were above those of 1965, but this was principally due to the prevalence of measles in the last few weeks of 1966; the continuance of this outbreak will be evident in 1967 figures. There was an unwelcome increase in prevalence of dysentery. Although not a serious disease, this infection throws a great deal of work on the staff of the Health Department in arranging for the necessary bacteriological examinations. While 6 cases of food poisoning were notified on clinical grounds by local general practitioners, bacteriological examination yielded no specific organism.

In later sections of this report, members will note that the district continues to show, for its size, rapid new housing development with 456 new dwellings (including 130 for the Council) completed in the district during the year. At the time of writing the Council's large new housing estate on the Holly Mill site is completed. As directed by the Council, your Health Department staff continued intensive work in the inspection of potentially unfit properties, and, during the year, a total of 76 houses were represented in 12 Clearance Areas, together with a further 8 houses represented as individually unfit. As a result of this activity, there have been, and will remain, a number of Public Enquiries arising from objections lodged with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

As is later reported on by Mr.Buckley in his section of the report, there were two other events of some note during the year. Following upon the appointment of a Technical Officer in April it was possible to resume the smoke control programme with detailed survey of properties in the proposed Thornham Smoke Control Area. Also, the revised arrangements for meat inspection resulted in a 100% inspection rate for the increasing throughput

at the two local slaughterhouses. Physical conditions at both these premises were kept under review, and, while at one they were satisfactory, your officers, together with staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, found it necessary to give a number of informal cautions to the owners of the other establishment.

Unfortunately, the one aspect of Public Health Department work most directly encountered by the public - Refuse Collection and Disposal - continued to be a pretty poor advertisement for the Council throughout 1966. Like most Public Health Medical Officers and Inspectors, I am convinced that a Council is largely judged by its ratepayers on the efficiency of this service, and that it is the one service for which the ratepayer is willing to pay, provided he can be shown that there is no mis-allocation of finance. At the time of writing, the service is again under review by the Council and one can only hope that members will finally agree upon (a) a realistic refuse collection vehicle replacement scheme. (b) revision of the existing 'bonus' scheme to offer a real inducement to refuse collectors and (c) adequate arrangements, and especially suitable machinery, for effective tip control. I must also reiterate my conviction that the appointment of an experienced full-time foreman to give effective full-time day to day supervision of this service is essential unless one is prepared to sacrifice much of the regular work of the Public Health Inspectorate.

I am, Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

G.R.BRACKENRIDGE.
Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Area in Acres		2,149
Population -	Census 1961	14,476
	Registrar-General Estimate 1966	16,900
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1966		6,281
Rateable Value		£565,805
Sum represented by penny rate		£2,250

Conditions of Locality

The Urban District Council was constituted in 1894, and took the place of the Local Government Board which had been in existence since 1863. The Council now consists of fifteen members; the district being divided into five wards (Dogford, Dryclough, Haggate, Heyside and Thornham), with three Councillors representing each ward.

It is situated in the south east of the County on the lower slopes of the Pennines, and is bounded upon the north by the County Borough of Rochdale and on the south by the County Borough of Oldham. The eastern boundary adjoins the Urban District of Crompton and to the west lie the Urban District of Chadderton and the Borough of Middleton.

The number of cotton mills has again declined and the cotton trade is losing its status as the principal industry in the district. Light engineering in its various forms appears to be taking precedence.

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Vital Statistics

Live Births (Total):			370
	Males	Females	
Legitimate	185	169	
Illegitimate	7	9	
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population:			
Crude Rate			21.9
Adjusted Rate (Comparability Factor 1.04)			22.8
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births			4.3
Stillbirths:			4
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births:			10.7
Total Live and Still births:			374
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)			8
	Males	Females	
Legitimate	4	3	
Illegitimate	-	1	
Infant Mortality Rates:			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			21.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			19.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			62.5
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births			13.5
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 weeks per 1,000 total live births			13.5
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births			24.1
Maternal Mortality(including abortion)			Nil.
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births			Nil.
Total Deaths (all ages)			238
Death rate per 1,000 population:			
Crude Rate			14.0
Adjusted Rate (Comparability Factor 1.12)			15.4
Principal Causes of Death:			
1. Diseases of Heart and Circulation			86
2. Cancer (all sites)			33
3. Respiratory Diseases			42
4. Vascular lesions of the Nervous System			30

SYNOPSIS OF CENSUS 1961 RETURNS

(a) The following table shows the proportion of population falling into major working and dependant groups:

Total Population (both sexes)		14,474	100%
Child Population	Children under school age	1,102	7.5%
	School children aged 5-14	2,132	14.5%
	Total children under 15	3,234	22%
Men 15-64 'Working Population'		4,540	31%
Women	15-44 'Reproductive Pop.	2,780	19%
	Aged 45-60	1,663	11.5%
Elderly Persons	Females 60 and over	1,558	10.5%
	Males 65 and over	669	5%
	Total Pensionable	2,257	15.5%

(b) The following table shows the households in the district as classified by tenure and the presence of 4 specified "amenities".

Total Households			5,103	%
Tenure	Owner Occupied		2,778	54%
	Local Authority Owned		844	16.5%
	Rented Unfurnished		1,263	25%
	Other forms of tenure		218	4.5%
Amenities	Without Exclusive Use Of	Cold Water Tap	14	-
		Hot Water System	1,245	24.5%
		Fixed Bath	1,889	37%
		Water Closet	955*	19%
	With all four above amenities		3,120	61%

* In retrospect, the Registrar General's department have admitted this figure may be an under estimate.

Comparative Table of Principal Vital Statistics

		1966	1965	1961	1956	1946
Live Births	No.	370	346	257	179	274
	Adjusted rate	22.8	22.2	18.3	13.1	18.8
Stillbirths	No.	4	8	6	2	6
	Adjusted rate	10.7	22.6	22.8	11	21
Total (Live and stillbirths)	No.	374	354	263	181	280
Total Infant Deaths	No.	8	6	8	8	13
	Adjusted rate	21.6	17.3	31.1	45	-
Maternal Deaths	No.	-	-	-	-	1
	Adjusted rate	-	-	-	-	3.57
Total Deaths	No.	238	196	215	179	188
	Adjusted rate	15.4	13.2	16.5	14.0	12.9

Infant Mortality - 1966

Cause of Death	Under 1 Day	1 day to 1 week	1 week to 1 month	1 month to 1 yr.	Total under 1
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	2
Defined and Ill-defined diseases	-	-	5	-	5
Totals	-	-	5	3	8

DEATHS - BY CAUSATION

CAUSES	M	F	1966	1965	1961	1956	1946
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	2	1	1	1
Meningococcol Infection	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasms -							
Stomach	2	3	5	3	5	5	6
Lung and Bronchus	4	3	7	9	7	5	-
Breast	-	2	2	1	5	6	1
Uterus	-	1	1	3	2	3	5
Other	11	7	18	15	11	14	14
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	16	14	30	32	39	12	15
Coronary disease - Angina	23	18	41	43	27	6	-
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2	1	2	1	-
Other heart disease	13	14	27	24	34	19	54
Other circulatory disease	10	6	16	9	12	29	10
Influenza	-	3	3	-	4	-	4
Pneumonia	11	17	28	12	12	7	9
Bronchitis	8	6	14	11	19	20	11
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-	-	3	3	4	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	3	1	1	1	3
Gastro-Enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	4	3	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital malformations	-	1	1	2	-	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	15	26	15	20	26	28
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1	2	-	1	3	2
All other accidents	1	2	3	2	6	8	4
Suicide	1	2	3	1	1	3	2
TOTALS	118	120	238	196	215	181	188

DEATHS - BY AGE GROUPS

YEARS	M	F	1966	1965	1961	1956	1946
Under 1	4	4	8	6	7	8	13
1 - 5	-	1	1	1	4	-	1
5 - 15	-	-	-	1	1	-	3
15 - 25	-	1	1	-	3	2	4
25 - 45	5	2	7	2	8	8	6
45 - 65	39	19	58	53	50	53	53
65 - 75	37	30	67	58	62	55	53
Over 75	33	63	96	75	80	55	55
TOTALS	118	120	238	196	215	181	188

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
1966

Statistics

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious diseases notified, age groups, and a comparison with notifications in previous years.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all Ages	Total Notified cases in age groups									
		0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65 and over	Age not known
Measles	134	2	40	54	37	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	15	-	1	3	6	3	1	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	7	-	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	68	4	13	14	16	13	-	6	1	1	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning (suspect)	6	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
Totals	233	6	56	75	63	17	2	9	3	2	-

Comparison Infectious Diseases

Notifiable Diseases	1966	1965	1961	1956	1946
Chicken Pox	-	-	-	-	57
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	68	32	7	32	-
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	2
Measles	134	70	195	6	64
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia (Acute)	-	-	-	4	4
Poliomyelitis(Non Paralytic)	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	6	-	2	29	-
Scarlet Fever	15	178	15	13	17
Whooping Cough	7	2	7	16	23
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	3	3	6	9	13
Non-pulmonary	-	2	1	-	1
Totals	233	127	236	110	183

2. Diphtheria

Although it is now seventeen years since the last case of Diphtheria occurred in the district, the occasional small outbreaks reported in the country serve as a reminder that for our present freedom from this disease, we are primarily dependent on the maintenance of a high level of active immunisation in the child population.

3. Dysentery

There was an increase from 32 to 68 cases in the prevalence of this disease in the district as compared with 1965. This disease is now generally recognised to serve as a fairly sensitive index of local standards of food preparation and personal hygiene. Most cases are fortunately mild, but the disease has a considerable nuisance value, and involves Public Health Department staff and the Laboratory services in considerable work in collection and examination of specimens

4. Food Poisoning

Six cases were notified in the district. While there were reasonable clinical grounds for notification, no causative organisms were found on bacteriological investigation.

5. Measles

This year there was an increase in the cases of Measles from 70 in 1965 to 134 in 1966, principally due to prevalence of the disease towards the end of the year. The majority were mild and in children of immediate pre-school or early school age group.

6. Poliomyelitis

No case occurred in the district during the year, and even the most convinced critic of immunisation must find it difficult to demonstrate reasons other than large-scale vaccination for the drastic decline in national incidence of this disease in the past 9 years.

7. Scarlet Fever

15 cases were notified in the district during the year. Generally speaking the causative organism of Scarlet Fever(the streptococcus) has lost a good deal of its former virulence, and, with being sensitive to a wide range of chemo-therapeutic drugs, the sporadic cases now reported are of a mild character.

8. Smallpox

There were no cases of this disease during the year. It must be appreciated that the proportion of infants now given routine primary vaccination within the first 2 years of life is totally inadequate to maintain adequate community resistance, and it seems that only be constant vigilance on the part of Port and Airport Health Authorities can occasional outbreaks of this disease in Britain be avoided.

9. Whooping Cough

7 cases were notified during the year. Assuming that the public, and especially parents of young children, are prepared to make use of modern immunological technique, this potentially dangerous infection should never again reach major proportions.

10. Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1966

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years.								
0 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3		-		-		-	

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the register at 31st December 1966 was:

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	24	15	39
Non-respiratory	6	1	7
	30	16	46

This represents a net reduction of 4 cases in the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The following services are administered by the Lancashire County Council through the No. 14 Health Divisional Office at 'Tylon', Middleton Road, Chadderton.

1. Maternity and Child Welfare Service
2. Midwifery Services
3. Health Visiting Service
4. Home Nursing Service
5. Vaccination and Immunisation
6. Ambulance Service
7. 'Care' and 'After Care' Services
8. Home Help Service
9. Mental Health Service
10. Care of Aged and Handicapped (under National Assistance Act).

CLINICS

Regular sessions of the following clinics are held at Milton Street, Royton, as follows:

Ante-natal and post-natal :	Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 O'clock.
Maternity and Child Welfare:	Every Monday and Thursday afternoon at 2 O'clock.

HEALTH VISITORS AND SCHOOL NURSES

Three full-time Health Visitor/School Nurses are now employed, together with one School/Clinic Nurse, all being based at the Milton Street Clinic.

DAY NURSERIES

There is one 50 place day nursery at Radcliffe Street which is the responsibility of the County Council. There are also industrial nurseries as follows:

Lion Day Nursery
Royton Textile Corporation Day Nursery
Monarch Mill Day Nursery

Application for admission to the Radcliffe Street Day Nursery, which is open daily from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. should be made direct to the Matron. Charges are based on an income scale prescribed by the Lancashire County Council.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire County Council in conjunction with Voluntary Moral Welfare Organisations.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Three domiciliary midwives serve the district. The ante-natal clinic is held at the school clinic, Milton street, on Wednesday afternoon at 2 O'clock. The midwives are:

Miss M.L.Buckley	112 Sherriff Street Rochdale (Rochdale 46389)
Mrs.A.A.Cheetham	Chamber Road, Shaw. (SH9 7301)
Miss A.Turner	54 Milton Street, Royton. (MAIn 5669)

DISTRICT NURSING

There are three full time nurses serving in the district, and one male nurse is available for certain cases:

Mrs.F.Knight	396 Milnrow Road, Shaw. (SH9 7730)
Miss S.Todd	43 Albert Street, Royton. (MAIn 2896)
Mrs.E.Brock	2 Dale Square, Royton. (MAIn 6593)
Mr.C.S.Croasdale	55 Pennine View, Royton. (MAIn 6903)

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Protective vaccination and immunisation is now routinely offered to all children against the following diseases: Smallpox, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough. Oral poliomyelitis vaccination is available for all between 6 months and 40 years of age, and certain other priority groups (e.g. expectant mothers) over 40 years. B.C.G. Vaccine (against Tuberculosis) is offered to school children found to be Tuberculin-negative at about 13 years of age.

Arrangements for such immunisation may be made either to the school clinic or with Local General Practitioners.

AMBULANCE

The ambulance service is administered by the Health Division No. 14, ambulances being under Radio-Control from a control centre at Whitefield (WHI 6666). The district is served by vehicles based on Crompton and Middleton ambulance stations.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Chest Clinic is situated in the Oldham and District General Hospital where all suspected cases of Tuberculosis are referred, and where infants may be vaccinated against Tuberculosis.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Home Helps are available for various classes of illness, priority being given to maternity cases, the elderly and infirm. Application for the services of a Home Help should be made to the Divisional Medical Officer.

WELFARE SERVICES

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire County Council, residential accommodation for persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available, is now provided at seven hostels controlled by Health Division 14. There is, however, a waiting list for accommodation.

The statutory services comprising health visitors, home nurses, home helps and laundry service, co-operate with the voluntary bodies providing chiropody, home visiting, meals-on-wheels, etc., in order to enable old people to continue to live in their own homes whenever possible.

CARE OF CHILDREN UNDER THE CHILDREN ACT 1948

The work in connection with Infant Life Protection and Adoption of Children is carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

The Area Children's Officer for this district is based at Jowett's Walk, Manchester Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, telephone No. ASHton 4338/9.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The Divisional Medical Officer and Assistant Divisional Medical Officer are also School Medical Officers. Clinics are held at Milton Street, Royton, as follows:

Minor Ailments	-	Every Monday and Thursday morning.
*Ophthalmic	-	Alternate Monday mornings.
*Dental	-	Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning.

*by appointment.

HOSPITAL SERVICE

Hospitals normally utilised by patients from Royton are:

General and Maternity Cases	- Oldham and District General Hospital.
	- Oldham Royal Infirmary.
Infectious Diseases	- Westhulme Hospital, Oldham.
	- Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
ROYTON.

October 1967.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1966 camein with the department fully concentrated on the Housing problem and it is pleasing to be able to say that all the 233 dwellings scheduled for further reports were dealt with in the time allotted. This, as anticipated, left in its wake a number of Ministerial Enquiries which have protracted well into the present year.

The Clean Air Act is legislation which has been somewhat delayed in the Town but during the year it was possible to make a start in earnest. With the appointment of a Technical Officer it has been possible to give undivided attention to the progress of Smoke Control Areas and the year closed with an area of some 432 acres containing 1,100 properties being prepared for acceptance by Council.

Since the increase in the staff of the Health Department, some embarrassment has accompanied it in the fact that office accommodation is so restricted. It is true the Council have considered this problem, but I would suggest that some short term policy be put into operation at an early date.

In conclusion, I would like to record my sincere thanks to Dr.Brackenridge for his help and guidance and also to members of staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

C.BUCKLEY.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

The Town now has two confirmed smoke control areas and at the close of the year in question, a third was being prepared for consideration by the Council. It is pleasing to report this has since received confirmation.

The following table sets out the progress in this field.

Area	No. of Properties	Date of Operation
1. Flake Lane	339	November 1959
2. Oozewood	220	September 1963
3. Thornham	1100	December 1967

Since the appointment of a technical officer it has been possible to maintain constant progress in the inspection of properties in preparation for the date of operation of sections of the Clean Air Act 1956 when it will become an offence to burn other than authorised fuels. In order to comply, it means that many existing firegrates have to be converted. Grants are available to the owner or tenant of properties needing conversions, totalling to 7/10ths of the approved costs of the reasonable conversions. 3/10ths from the local authority and 4/10ths from the Minstry of Housing and Local Government. In areas where a large number of conversions are necessary, this can put a severe strain on the finances of a small authority and it is pleasing to report that since staff increases have been made, the Council have tentatively agreed to consider one area each year and for the programme to be completed within seven years.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Measurement

Various methods are available, depending on what particular constituent is to be measured. In common with the surrounding districts, Royton is a member of the South East Lancashire and North Cheshire Consultative Committee.

Briefly, the lead peroxide gauge, situated in Royton Park, consists of a louvred box containing a material coated with a chemical which reacts with the sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. The chemical analysis of this instrument is taken monthly. With the volumetric instrument situated in the sewage works, air is drawn through a chemical solution, which retains the sulphur content of the air. The quantity of the air passing through the instrument is measured and a so a more positive resultant figure is achieved. An attachment is incorporated with this instrument, which filters the air drawn into it, giving what is known as a 'smoke stain'; the results of the volumetric apparatus are collated each day.

Individual findings are subject to so many variable factors, that a true interpretation of results in any district can only be based on repeated observations at a large number of points over a period of years. Nor can the results in any one disteict be fairly related to those in another, unless, amongst other things, the siting of the instruments are fully comparable. It is is the practice in interpreting the results, to compare summer and winter periods with the like periods.

It is pleasing to report that it has been possible to open up the vulumetric station again. The following tables show the readings obtained for each month of 1964, 1965 and 1966 from the two instruments located in the district of Royton.

Estimation of Sulphur Dioxide expressed mgms

Mg. SO3/day/100 cm^2

Batch A.PbO_2

(Louvred Cover)

Site - Royton Park

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1966	2.74	2.66	1.73	1.95	1.25	1.11	0.58	0.92	1.13	1.59	1.76	1.88
1965	2.73	1.46	2.43	1.50	1.23	1.02	0.85	1.02	1.16	-	-	-
1964	-	-	2.80	1.59	1.48	0.91	0.86	0.72	1.32	1.65	2.32	2.51

Volumetric Apparatus
Average Sulphur Dioxide Content Measured in Microgrammes per Cubic Metre

Site - Sewage Works

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134	138	94	127

Average Smoke Content
Measured in Microgrammes per Cubic Metre

Site - Sewage Works

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142	155	181	176

WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District is supplied with water by the Oldham Corporation Waterworks Department from their moorland gathering grounds on the Pennine Range to the north east of Oldham. Royton is fed from the Piethorn and Hanging Lees reservoirs and all supplies are treated for pH correction and then chlorinated. The Oldham Corporation Water Works Department take weekly bacteriological samples from these two sources and in addition chemical samples are taken quarterly. Further samples are taken for bacteriological examination from premises throughout the whole area supplied by Oldham Corporation and during 1966 eleven such samples were taken within the Royton district.

	Results	
11 samples were submitted by Oldham Corporation.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
	11	Nil

There are, however, a number of properties in the district which are supplied with water from private wells and springs. These premises, 28 in number, are situated in the more isolated parts of Royton at Thorp, Royley Clough and Heyside (Bull Cote Lane). In the case of supplies from these isolated wells, advice on the usage of the water was given.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Sewage is treated at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works at Streetbridge in detritus and precipitation tanks, afterwards passing through the percolating filters to humus tanks and thence the effluent is discharged into the River Irk. Sludge drying beds are provided. The only areas of the district without a proper drainage system are isolated farm communities and a few domestic properties.

FACTORIES

26 inspections were made during the year. These factories were found to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Although slow progress is being made, it is unfortunate that much of the routine work of inspections and surveys on these premises has to be left owing to the lack of time available to the inspector.

FACTORY ACT INSPECTIONS

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health(including inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
*(1)	10	4	-	-
*(2)	79	22	-	-
*(3)	-	-	-	-
Total	89	26	-	-

*(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.
*(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.
*(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).

2. OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions of failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel						
Making, etc.	4	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning & washing.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	-	-	-	-	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This service has a complement of twelve men with two S. & D. Freighter Collection Vehicles. Tip control is aided by the part-time use of a wheeled dozer of the 990 David Brown type, all transport and drivers are under the control of the Transport Dept., to whom any requisition has to be made.

Efforts to maintain the service of emptying the dustbins with some regularity were made but at times with troublesome bouts of sickness this was not possible. Holiday time is another period when the rounds get upset as there are no workmen available to employ as temporary refuse collectors.

With the rapid growth of house building, it is essential that the refuse collection service be increased in strength. In this day and age it is expected that a weekly collection, at least, be maintained throughout the year. This will cause an increase in the cost of the service but the present day public expect a more regular service.

Following the presentation of a report on this important service early in 1966, the Committee unfortunately did not agree on the provision of a new additional collection vehicle. Permission was, however, granted to purchase a second-hand vehicle but this was not obtained until the summer of 1967.

The present composition of household refuse is such that it is increasing in bulk with less ash content, which causes many problems. Cover for the tip has to be transported to the site and the nature of the refuse occupies more space and does not consolidate as easily as in the past. Tipping space is being used up at a faster rate than has been known in the past. In order that the fullest use can be made of tipping space, which at the present time is at a premium, it behoves the authority to reduce the bulk of refuse to a minimum before tipping. This leads to consideration being given to increasing the rate of extraction of saleable items and/or the incineration of combustible items.

At the close of the year, three of the adjoining authorities agreed to a joint meeting with Royton U.D.C., to explore the possibilities of a combined refuse disposal unit. This has a number of advantages but time will tell whether such a scheme can come to fruition.

DUSTBINS

The dustbins are replaced by the Council, the cost being borne by the rate fund. 236 dustbins were supplied during the year under this replacement scheme. In addition, 166 dustbins were sold principally to house-owners in new properties.

PAPER BALING

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.		£	s.	d.
Amount baled during 1965	144	12	1	sold for	1156	18.	0.
Amount baled during 1966	153	16	2	sold for	1230	6.	0.

SCRAP METAL

Amount collected during 1965	8	1	-	sold for	29	9.	0.
Amount collected during 1966	5	10	-	sold for	26	16.	0.

SACKING

An amount of sacking was sold and realized £1 6. 9.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The following table shows the approximate number of the various sanitary conveniences in the district at the end of the year.

CLOSETS

Privy - midden closets	Nil
Pail Closets	28
Trough Closets	Nil
Waste Water Closets	219
Fresh Water Closets	6822

Of the 6281 houses in the district, less than 1% are not on the water carriage system but there still remains 219 waste water closets. During the year 13 waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets and over the past three years, 48 conversions have been carried out. I would suggest that the time has come when a further incentive should be considered if the town is to be rid of these obsolete types of closets. The present grant of one third of the cost to a maximum of £10 has not proved sufficient inducement and therefore one can again advance the idea of a 50% grant as a better attraction. This would then line up with the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936 should compulsory action be necessary.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

62 inspections of shops were made during the year. It was only at the closing of the year that it was possible to begin a systematic inspection of Offices and Shops under the new Act.

Frequent inspections are to be commended where the standard of hygiene is to be raised as persuasion is more lasting, without the enmity created by Court cases.

SWIMMING BATHS

The Baths were extensively reconstructed in 1961-62.

The Building now houses one plunge bath, 10 slipper baths and 2 vapour baths.

The plunge bath is 75 feet long, 27 feet wide and a graduated depth along its length from 3 feet 3 inches to 6 feet 3 inches. The feed water in the plunge bath is supplied from the town's main, and there is a continucus circulation treatment of the water, whilst in use.

Water being drawn from the deep end of the bath is chlorinated, filtered, reheated and finally aerated before being returned to the shallow end of the plunge. The time for a complete change of water through the circulatory system is 4½ hours.

The temperature of the water in the plunge is maintained at approximately 76°F., and tests to determine the alkalinity or otherwise of the water are taken three or more times daily as the circumstances demand. The figures maintained are:

pH value 7.8
alkalinity 2 p.p. 1,000,000

Chlorine

residual 1 p.p. 1,000,000
combined 1.5 p.p. 1,000,000

On one side of the entrance hall there are 5 slipper and one vapour bath for men, and on the other side of the hall are 5 slipper baths and one vapour bath for ladies. Sanitary accommodation is provided at suitable positions throughout the building.

The conditions of the baths have been fully satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

One trained Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work. Regular surveys were made and all complaints given prompt attention. All sewers in the district received two treatments in accordance with the methods approved by the responsible Ministry, and routine inspections and treatments were made at other Council properties.

The South East Lancashire Advisory Committee meets twice yearly under the auspices of the Divisional Rodent Office, joint action is planned between representatives when necessary.

The following table shows the number of inspections and treatments carried out during the period under review:

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

(1) No. of rodent eoperatives employed - (a) Full time - none
(b) Part time - one

(2) Action relating to rodent control during the year.

	Type of Property	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) No. of Properties in district.	6544	18
(b) Total number of properties (incl.nearby premises) inspected following notification.	961	18
(c) No. of (b) infested by - rats	105	4
Mice	70	-
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	85	14
(e) No. of (d) infested by - rats	15	Nil
mice	20	Nil

Any Other Action

Twice yearly treatment of Public Sewers in the District (March and September).

FOOD PREMISES

91 visits were made to food premises during the year. With the constantly recurring emphasis on outbreaks of food.poisoning and dysentery, this is not a happy state of affairs. All food premises should be regularly visited as a matter of routine, but this was an impossibility with the existing staff.

The following are the various types of premises in the district where food is prepared or sold:

Type of Business	No.
General Grocers and provision dealers	58
Greengrocers and fruiterers	15
Fishmongers	1
Meat Shops (Butchers, etc.)	20
Bakers and/or confectioners	36
Fried fish shops	11
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, etc.	24
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, etc.	56
Others	8

Milk Supply

Milk distributors	49
Dealer's licences -	
pasteurised milk	6
sterilised milk	45
tuberculin tested milk	7
Supplementary licences -	
pasteurised milk	14
sterilised milk	15
tuberculin tested milk	15

Sampling milk is carried out by Officers of the Lancashire County Council.

MILK SAMPLING - BRUCELLOSIS

The year came in with brucella infection being amongst some herds and sampling was in progress. This meant that early morning sampling had to be kept going and the table below sets out the results of these visits.

It is pleasing to report that the farmers gave their fullest co-operation during the sampling of the milk and for this I am sincerely grateful. Their readiness to do their best to improve the milk yield and to produce a good quality milk is to be commended. It is unfortunate that in these outbreaks of brucellosis, it results in some of the animals having to go for slaughter prematurely.

Total No. of Samples submitted = 48	Results		
	Positive	Negative	No result
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-
(b) Brucellosis - Ring Test	36	10	-
(c) " - Culture test	19	27	-
(d) " - Biological test	2	-	-

SAMPLING FOOD

I am indebted to Dr.S.C.Gawne, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following particulars of samples taken within the district.

A total of 83 samples was obtained comprising 45 milks (of which 9 were Channel Islands milk) and 38 others as follows:

1 meat, canned (open tin)
1 honey
1 fruit curd
1 butter
1 lard
1 white pepper
1 soup mixture, dry
1 flavouring material
1 mustard compound
1 brandy butter spread
3 sterilised cream
1 meat pudding, canned
1 meat, canned
2 vegetables, canned
2 fruit, canned
1 fruit, bottled
1 marmalade
2 sweets
1 coffee
2 fruit, dried.
1 fruit, fresh.
1 margarine
1 christmas pudding
1 sponge pudding mixture
1 cake mixture
1 biscuits
1 baking powder
1 arrowroot
1 potted meat
1 cheese
2 pickles

I give below details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports.

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Formal milk	Fat 2.70% - deficient 10% fat.	Producer cautioned and further sample obtained
Formal milk	Fat 2.50% - deficient 16.6% fat.	" " "
Formal milk	Deficient 8.3% fat and slightly low in solids-not-fat.	vendor notified.
Formal milk (Channel Islands)	Fat 3.40% - deficient 15% fat.	Producer cautioned and further sample obtained.
Meat, canned. (open tin)	Contained the body of a black ground beetle, approx. 8 millimetres in length and weighing 29 milligrams.	Complainant informed and importers contacted
Christmas Pudding.	Contained 235 parts per million Propionic Acid.	No action taken.

UNSOUND FOOD

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for consumption on examination.

	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Pickled Cucumbers	3	2	0	0
Pickled Cucumbers	3	0	0	0
Tinned Ham			10	0
Tinned Ham		2	21	0
Ham in skins			24	0
6 Tins of Assorted fruits			5	2
	7	2	4	2

SLAUGHTERHOUSE & MEAT INSPECTION

It will be noted this is the first year a full 100% meat inspection has been carried out and it is pleasing to be able to report this.

This is not the only significant feature, as in the last two years there has been a 30% increase in the throughput. Records also show that 12,837 more animals passed through the two slaughterhouses this year than last and equating the throughput with population figures, the two slaughterhouses provide fresh meat for a population of 184,210.

At the close of the year, the Health Committee considered implementing the Regulations to curtail the hours of slaughter. At the time of writing this report, the hours have been fixed and have proved their worth.

The hours are as follows:

Monday	7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday	7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	7 a.m. to 12 noon.

One hour to be taken for lunch. The last animal to be killed one hour before finishing time.

CARCASE AND OFFAL inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	8202	2051	203	55993	21173
Number inspected	8202	2051	203	55993	21173
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned	-	1	3	5	40
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1484	828	2	5915	6040
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18.09%	43%	2.47%	10.68%	34.4%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	.037%
Cysticercosis Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-

The following amounts of meat were found to be unfit for food at the slaughterhouses.

		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Other Diseases -	Offal	14	4	3	3
	Carcase	3	18	2	17
		18	3	1	20
Tuberculosis -	Carcase	-	-	3	12
	Offal	-	-	-	-
		-	-	3	12

The condemned meat is collected and disposed off by an approved trader.

HOUSING

Number of new dwellings erected during the year

1.	By the local authority	Maisonettes	44
		Flats	86
2.	By other local authorities	Houses	-
		Flats	-
3.	By other bodies or persons	Houses	326
		Flats	-

Total No. of dwellings owned by any local authority, existing in district at end of year. 1210

Inspections of dwellings during the year

1a. Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 404

b. No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose. 783

c. No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit. 90

2. Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which -

a. Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time) 134

b. Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made -

Houses Demolished (a) In or Adjoining Clearance Areas:

1. Houses unfit for human habitation 83
2. Persons displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed 162
3. Families displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed 76

(b) Not in or Adjoining Clearance Areas:

4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17(1), Housing Act 1957. 7
5. Persons displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed 19
6. Families displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed 4

Unfit Houses Made Fit

By owner after informal action by local authority 67

*House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 and Housing Act 1961 and 1964 - Standard Grants

Action during year:			No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
1.	Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to	(a) full standard	76
		(b) reduced standard	-
2.	Total applications approved by local authority for improvement to	(a) full standard	75
		(b) reduced standard	-
3.	Work completed		64
4.	Particulars of any action taken relating to compulsory improvement of dwellings:		Nil

* With regard to the compilation of the above figures, I wish to express my thanks to the Engineer & Surveyor.